THE NEWS OF

HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

Volume: 53 / Number: 3 **July – September 2022**

Published Quarterly by the Society for Hungarian Philately / Copyright 2022

CONTENTS:

Page

1 **The President's Corner** *by Alan Bauer*
2 **Welcome & Kudos**
3 **The Ruminations of Your Editor** *by Robert Lauer*
4 **Letter to the Editor: Literature Competitions** *by Wayne Menuz*
4 **Letter to the Editor: 2 Krajcár "Spotted Joe" from 1871** *by Csaba L. Kohalmi*
5 **The Postal History of Baja in South Hungary, 1918-21** *by Robert Lauer*
9 **Addendum to the Addendum to the Story of the Villány Provisional** *by Csaba L. Kohalmi*
11 **A Series of Christmas Postcards from Lajos Márton** *by T.P. McDermott*
14 **New Insights into the 1919 Szeged National Government Overprint Issue** *by Christopher Brainard and Csaba L. Kohalmi*
28 **Plate Flaw Fanatic: the Károly 20 Fillér "Lepke" Flaw**

Seventy-five years ago, on September 22, 1947, Magyar Posta issued this stamp to mark the February 10, 1947 Signing of the Paris Peace Treaty with the Allied nations. The treaty basically reaffirmed the boundaries set by the 1920 Treaty of Trianon, but with the loss of three additional villages south of Bratislava to Czechoslovakia.

Society for Hungarian Philately

SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY
505 S. 35th Street
Tacoma, WA 98418 USA

Established 1969

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

American Philatelic Society Affiliate #34

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

President: Alan Bauer, **baueralan0414@gmail.com**
P.O. Box 4028, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568 USA

Vice-President: Csaba Kohalmi, **csabakohalmi@yahoo.com**
910 Claridge Court, Indianapolis, IN 46260-2991 USA

Treasurer: Wes Learned, **shptreasurer@tctwest.net**
P.O. Box 802, Powell WY 82435-0802 USA

Secretary: Greg Gessell, **g_gessell@hotmail.com**
505 S. 35th Street, Tacoma WA 98418 USA

Directors-at-large:
Wally Green, **shpadminwg@zipcon.net**
Robert B. Morgan, **bobm2@roadrunner.com**
Lyman R. Caswell, **ruthandlyman@nventure.com**
Chris Brainard, **christopherbrainard5@gmail.com**

Newsletter Editor: Robert Lauer, **robertlauer59@gmail.com**
Newsletter Publisher: **9244891 Canada Ltd.**
Auction Chairperson: Anna Trischan, **shpauctioneer@gmail.com**
N49W16441 Lilac Lane, Menomonee Falls WI 53051 USA

SHP Web Site: **http://www.hungarianphilately.org**
Webmaster: Ken Washington, **kennethwashington294@gmail.com**

~~~~~~~~~~~~~

The Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP) is a non-profit organization chartered under the laws of the State of Connecticut and is devoted to the study of every aspect of Hungarian philately. SHP publishes a quarterly newsletter in March, June, September, and December. Manuscripts for publication may be sent to the Society's address or to the Editor's e-mail address listed above. The articles published herein represent the opinions of the individual authors and the content is not to be construed as official policy of this Society or any of its officers. All publication rights are reserved for SHP. Articles from this journal may be reprinted only with the written permission of the Editor and the authors. Back issues of the newsletter may be purchased for $4.00, if available, plus postage.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM YOUR TREASURER: MATCHING FUNDS 2022

In calendar years 2018 and 2019 the Society for Hungarian Philately had an anonymous donor put up $500 for a match of donations made by the membership during the year. This program was very successful as the members met the challenge in both years.

An email was just received from another potential donor pledging to do the same for the year 2022. As treasurer I gladly accepted the offer. The donations received through this program will ensure the Society is able to continue its philanthropic contributions to Hungarian philately and remain solvent.

A donation of any amount from members or friends is always appreciated. For your contributions to be matched in 2022 – they must be received by November 1, 2022. Donations may be made via PayPal at shptreasurer@tctwest.net. Checks may be mailed to The Treasurer, PO Box 802, Powell, WY 82435.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by **Alan Bauer**

Hello everyone, I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer and I would like to thank those of you who gave up a nice summer Saturday afternoon to join us for our Annual General Meeting on Zoom on August 27th. We followed that up with Robert Lauer's Expert Presentation "The Postal History of the Lost Territories – South Hungary (Banat and Bácska) – 1918-1921". Both were very well attended and well received. If you would like to see the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting or Robert's presentation, they have both been posted on our website in the "SHP Recordings" section.

Before I get to the substance of our Annual General Meeting, below is a list of all of the Expert Presentations that have been given to date and those scheduled in the future. Recordings of all the presentations already given are available on the SHP website.

Date	Name	Topic (Bold - completed)
2021-10-30	**Csaba Kohalmi**	**Lithos vs. Engraved**
2022-01-08	**Joe Colbourne**	**Perfins of Hungary**
2022-02-12	**George Shaw**	**Postal stationery**
2022-03-12	**Vic Berecz**	**Balloon Post**
2022-05-14	**Karoly Szucs**	**Papers of Hungarian adhesive revenues**
2022-08-27	**Robert Lauer**	**The Postal History of The Lost Territories - South Hungary (Bánát & Bácska), 1918-1921**
2022-09-10	**Jan Jaap de Weerd**	**German censor on Hungarian WWII mail**
2022-11-12	Johan Sevenhuijsen	Altering Hungarian cancels after the 1918-19 breakup
2023		
2023-01-14	Csaba Kohalmi	1896 Millenium Cards
2023-02-11	Florent Tricot	Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946: international relations in postage due between Hungary and abroad
TBD	Chris Brainard	How to become an Occupation expert
TBD	Jan Jaap de Weerd	German censor on Hungarian WWII mail - follow-up
The sessions will occur on the second Saturday of each month (except for the Annual Meeting on 8/27)		

The Annual General Meeting started with very positive Officers' reports from Wes about our finances and Anna about the auctions. In the New Business section of the meeting, much of the discussion was devoted to two topics – the promotion of the Society to attract new members and the formation of a committee to work on improving the pricing of Hungarian stamps in the Scott catalog.

The first topic was brought up by Wes Learned, our Treasurer. This year, 16 members failed to renew their memberships – a serious reduction in membership numbers. One recommendation was to advertise in the journals of the societies dedicated to Hungarian philately in other countries: Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain, ArGe Ungarn (the German society for Hungarian philately) and Mabeosz (the Hungarian collectors society), as well as the American Hungarian Federation. Robert will create an advertisement and I will work with those organizations we have identified to get the ads in print. If any of our members have suggestions as to other places where we can promote the Society, please let me know. Another idea for promoting the Society was to create a Facebook group where we can encourage discussion among members and allow non-members to engage with us. This could potentially bring prospective members into the fold. We will need an administrator to manage the group, so if anyone is willing to volunteer to help us in this very important undertaking, please let me know.

The second topic of New Business was a Scott Pricing Committee. Greg Gessell brought this up and will be chairing the Committee. The goal will be to review pricing in Scott, look at current market realizations and to document any discrepancies. The information will then be provided to Scott, so that future editions of the catalog can be updated. To date, we have four members in addition to Greg – myself, Anna Trischan, Chris Brainard and George Shaw. We will be happy to accept any other members who would like to participate. Please let me know if you'd like to join us.

Finally, we discussed the site for next year's Annual General Meeting. It was decided that we will have it at the 2023 Great American Stamp Show in Cleveland, Ohio, which takes place August 10-13, 2023. Cleveland is a great place for a Hungarian meeting. Next to Budapest, it has one of the largest Hungarian populations in the world. There is the Cleveland Hungarian Museum and the Buckeye neighborhood, which is known as little Budapest. I am sure that we will be able to find a Hungarian restaurant where we can feast on a traditional Hungarian dinner. And for those of us who like music, Cleveland is the home to the "Rock and Roll Hall of Fame". I'll be providing more information in subsequent issues of the News and by email. Please let me know if you are thinking of attending.

Have an enjoyable remainder of the year and as always, I wish you……. happy stamping!

❋

WELCOME & KUDOS

A warm welcome to our newest member Nestor Rychtyckyj from Warren, Michigan. Nestor is the editor of the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society's Trident Visnyk newsletter.

The News received a Vermeil in the literature competition at the CAPEX 22 International Philatelic Exhibition in Toronto, Canada, which was the same result **The News** was awarded at Hunfilex 2022. A picture of the medal awarded to all successful CAPEX 22 exhibitors is below.

❋

THE RUMINATIONS OF YOUR EDITOR

by **Robert Lauer**

In the wake of my Expert Presentation on "The Postal History of the Lost Territories – South Hungary (Bánát & Bácska) 1918-1921", Csaba Kohalmi emailed me inquiring about the date and type of canceller that was used on the cover from Baja to Ljubljana that I used in one of the slides for my presentation. The ensuing correspondence between us generated the piece on the postal history of Baja in this issue of **The News**. As such, it is a bit of a postscript to my Expert Presentation which followed the Annual General Meeting.

The central article in this issue of **The News** is the first part of a seminal article by Chris Brainard and Csaba on the "Szeged" overprinted stamps issued by the anti-Soviet Hungarian National Government of Admiral Horthy in June 1919 during the French occupation of the city. This edition also features letters to the editor from Csaba and Wayne Menuz, Csaba's final thoughts on the Villany Provisional postal stationery envelopes that he first wrote about in the July-September 2021 issue of **The News**, a delightful piece from T.P. McDermott on a series of Christmas art cards designed by the Hungarian artist, Lajos Márton and a short Plate Flaw Fanatic column on the "Lepke" plate flaw in the 20f Károly stamp of 1918.

Further to the comment in my Ruminations column in the last issue of **The News** about the paucity of examples where the Hungarian post office had allowed items with invalid postage to go through the mail, I just found another example. As a result of my correspondence with Csaba about the 1896 Millennium postal stationery cards, I noticed that my own collection did not contain any of the regular 5kr postal stationery cards for international use that were first issued in 1882. Looking on eBay, I found a couple of nice ones with reasonable 'buy it now' prices, one of which was sent from Budapest to Munich on December 5, 1900, which is illustrated below. According to Andor Hodobay's specialized catalogue of Hungarian postal stationery, these cards were only valid for postage until September 30, 1900. The receiving strike indicates that it arrived in Munich on December 6, 1900 and the card doesn't seem to show any signs of postage due that I can see.

❋

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: LITERATURE COMPETITIONS

I read your editorial comments in the April-June 2022 issue **The News** about the results of the Hunfilex 22 literature competition, and thought I'd reply, as I have some experience in this area. As you may know, I'm the editor of *Postal Stationery* and have been editing it since 2001. It had been about 12 pages in black and white appearing four times per year before 2001. It changed to 6 issues/year when I took over, went to color about 10 years later, and for the past decade or so has generally been about 70 pages plus the cover. The United Postal Stationery Society has about 700 members worldwide, and about 20% of those get the magazine in pdf format, the remainder the printed version.

Our journal *Postal Stationery* has been submitted twice to APS literature competitions, and both times garnered a large gold, plus a reserve *lit grand*. I am an APS judge, but not in literature. On the basis on the foregoing background, I submit the following comments.

I agree that your journal is top quality. I especially like the diversity of original content. I think 83 points was too low. I cannot know the judges' minds, but perhaps one reason they were under impressed was based on the number of pages. Your journal is about 120 pages/year, whereas *Postal Stationery* is about 490 pages/year. Also, *Postal Stationery* is far denser, with 2 columns and 10-point type, so it would be many more pages if it used your format. Other than increasing the page count, I don't have other recommendations to get a better score. Have you submitted it to the annual APS literature competition? I think the USA judges do a better job than many of the foreign panels.

Wayne Menuz

❋

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: 2 KRAJCÁR "SPOTTED JOE" FROM 1871

Back in February 2022, the 36th known copy of the 1871 2kr 'spotted joe' stamp turned up on eBay. While waiting for the listing to end, Chris Brainard and I knocked our brains together about the potential value and Chris decided to bid $1,000 for it. Three higher bids came in during the last five seconds and the stamp sold for $2,225! It's in poor condition (the top left corner is missing, there's a 3-4mm tear along the left side and, in my opinion, it was folded over a piece of paper since it paid the printed matter rate). The seller is in Kyiv, Ukraine, so with the Russian invasion, who knows, the stamp may not have found its new owner and may be lost forever. I sent these images to Karoly Szücs in Hungary, and he commented that it was in the poorest condition of all of the known copies.

Csaba L. Kohalmi

❋

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF BAJA IN SOUTH HUNGARY, 1918-21

by **Robert Lauer**

Figure 1: *Hungarian cancel for Baja, Bácska.*

In my August 27, 2022 Expert Presentation on "The Postal History of the Lost Territories – South Hungary (Bánát & Bácska) 1918-1921", I used a commercial letter sent from Baja in the northern Bácska to Ljubljana in Slovenia to illustrate the use of the new SHS Kingdom postal rates, that went into effect on May 15, 1920 in the Serbian occupied Bánát and Bácska. These new postal rates were denominated in Serbian Dinar/para and were converted into the currencies of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire at a rate of 1 Dinar = 4 Korona. The letter was franked with 1K80 in Slovenian Chainbreaker stamps to comply with the new SHS Kingdom Inland Letter rate and cancelled with a Hungarian canceller for Baja on May 26, 1920. An enlargement of one

of the strikes on back of the envelope is illustrated in Figure 1. The front and the franked portion of the back of the envelope are illustrated in Figure 2.

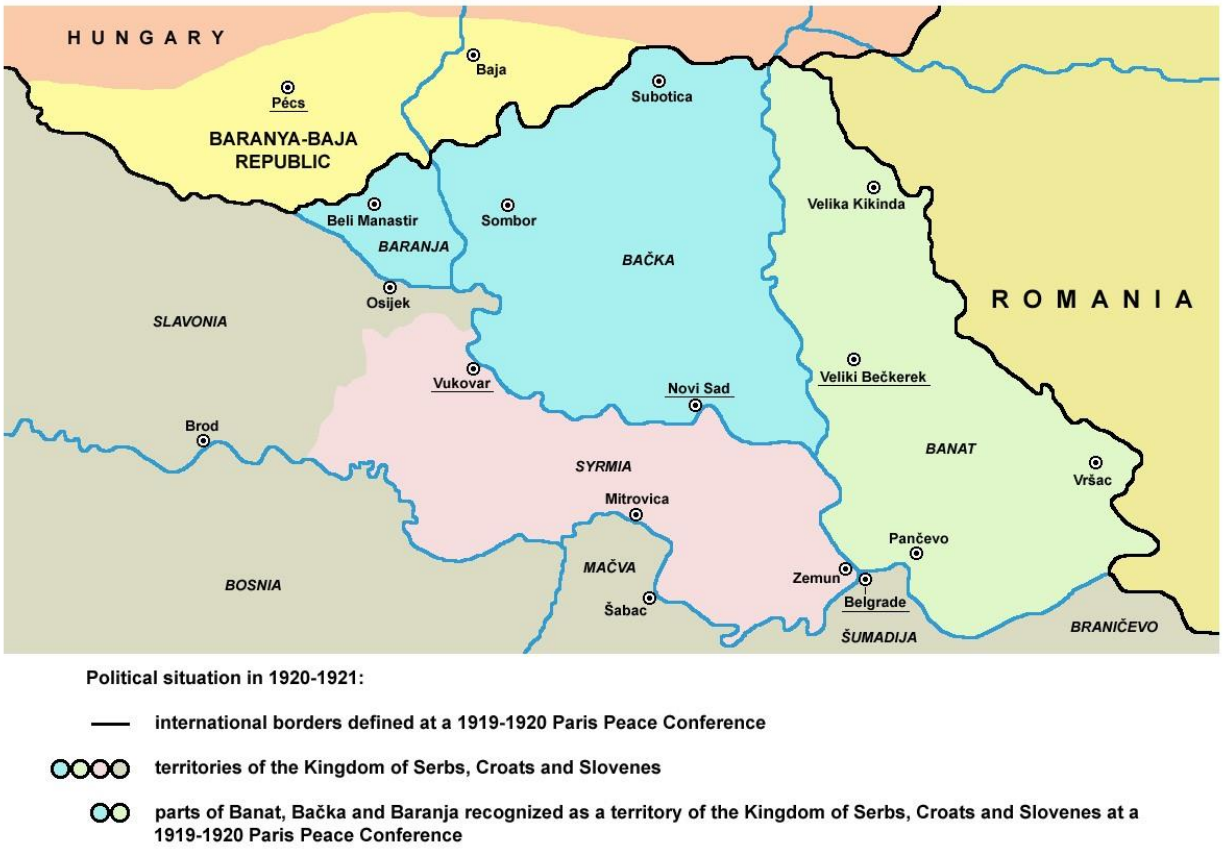
Figure 2: *the front and the franked portion of the back of a commercial letter sent from Baja to Ljubljana in Slovenia on May 26, 1920. Note that the word 'Ajánlott' on the R label is blotted out.*

Baja, along with the rest of the Bácska, was occupied by the Serbs in November 1918 in the wake of the Belgrade Military Convention, which ended hostilities between the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Allies on November 13, 1918. Under the terms of the Belgrade Military Convention, Hungarian civil, and therefore postal, administration was to remain in place pending the settlement of the borders in this area through final peace treaties. As a result, Hungarian stamps and postal stationery remained valid.

However, by the fall of 1919, stocks of Hungarian stamps were running extremenly low and in November/December 1919, the SHS Kingdom postal authorities started to supply post offices in the Serbian occupied Bánát and the Bácska with postage stamps from the Chainbreaker series that was originally issued for Slovenia.

Under the Treaty of Trianon between Hungary and the Allies, which was signed on June 4, 1920, the northernmost 1/6th of Bács-Bodrog county (the area around Baja) was to be returned to Hungary. The date for the implemenation of the treaty was set for July 26, 1921. The Serbs dragged their heels on withdrawing their forces from those parts of Baranya and the Bácska which were to be returned to Hungary under the treaty. When they finally withdrew on August 14, 1921 they supported the local Serbs in the proclamation of the Serbian-Hungarian Republic of Baranya-Baja, which was a last ditch effort to maintain control of the area in defiance of the terms of the Treaty of Trianon. This fiction, which was recognized by no other country, collapsed on August 20, 1921 and Hungary reasserted its control over the area (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: *Southern Hungary: 1920-21*



Source: Wikipedia Commons

Figure 4: *a strike from one of the new biliteral Cyrillic/Latin SHS Kingdom cancellers for Baja (eBay lot offered by krk966)*

Baja is unique among the towns in Southern Hungary that were returned to Hungary under the Treaty of Trianon, in the sense that it was the only one for which the Serbs manufactured new SHS Kingdom cancellers, which had the town name in both Cyrillic and Latin lettering. A strike from one of these cancellers (#7) on two Slovenian newspaper stamps on June 2, 1921 is illustrated in Figure 4. The earliest example of the use of one of these cancellers, that I am aware of, is illustrated in Tønnes Ore's Monograph on the Bánát and Bácska for the Yugoslavia Study Group. He illustrates strikes on the back of a parcel card from cancellers #6 on April 3, 1921 and #10 on April 9, 1921. This means that the Serbs manufactured at least 10 of these new cancellers for Baja.

Given that the cover in Figure 2 was cancelled by an old Hungarian canceller on May 26, 1920, less than two weeks before the signing of the Treaty of Trianon, I think it is reasonable to conclude that the new SHS cancellers for Baja were introduced after the signing of the Treaty of Trianon, when the Serbs knew that the area was supposed to be returned to Hungary under the treaty. The earliest uses of these new biliteral SHS cancellers in other towns of the Bánát and Bácska, that I am aware of, are in Subotica (Szabadka) on March 2, 1921 (a parcel card in my collection) and Vršac (Versecz) on April 10, 1921 (a partial strike on a loose SHS postage due stamp). Tønnes Ore also illustrates a postage due cover cancelled in Veliki Bečkerek (Nagy Becskerek) in early April 1921 in his Monograph. All of these strikes would seem to indicate that these new biliteral SHS cancellers were introduced into the Bánát and Bácska in the spring of 1921 – three quarters of a year after the signing of the Treaty of Trianon! It is difficult to come to any other conclusion than that the Serbs intended to stick around in Baja despite the terms of the Treaty of Trianon.

After Hungarian sovereignty was reasserted in August 1921, these biliteral SHS cancellers continued to be used, initially with just the date line rearranged from the standard SHS format of day/month/year to the Hungarian format of year/month/day. Figure 5 illustrates a card sent from Baja to Pécs on September 22, 1921. The sender's dating of the card on the back confirms that the date line in the canceller has been rearranged to Hungarian format. (The addressee is Gyula Miertl, the renouned expert on the occupation issues of Baranya.)

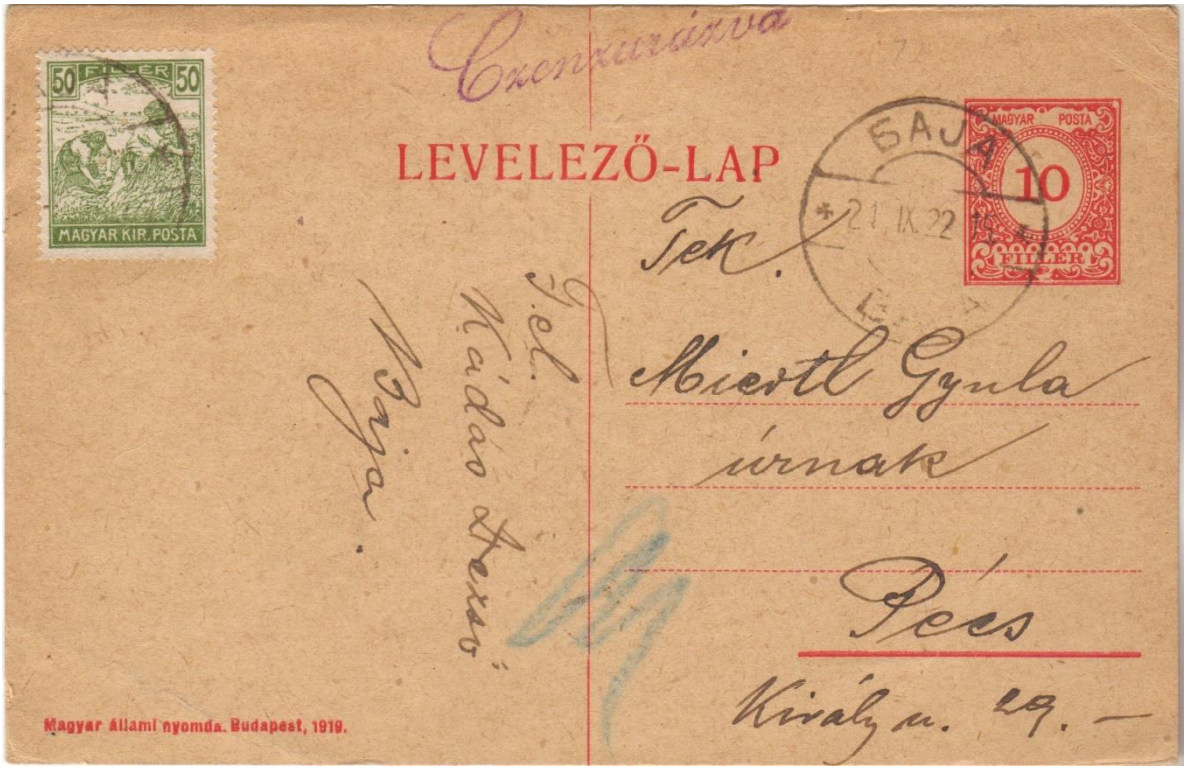


Figure 5: *an uprated Hungarian postal stationery card sent from Baja to Pécs on September 22, 1921 cancelled with a biliteral SHS canceller for the town. The 60f postage paid the then current Hungarian domestic postcard rate (from the collection of Csaba Kohalmi).*

Eventually, the Hungarian post office workers gouged-out the Cyrillic letters from the top of at least some of these SHS cancellers. Figure 6 illustrates a strike from canceller #7 on January 10, 1922, with the Cyrillic lettering removed and the date line rearranged to the Hungarian format. Tønnes Ore also illustrates a number of strikes from canceller #4 on December 19, 1921 with both the Cyrillic lettering removed and the date line rearranged to the Hungarian format.

Figure 6: *a strike from an SHS canceller for Baja with the Cyrillic lettering removed and the date line changed to the Hungarian format (from the collection of Csaba Kohalmi).*

References:

Csaba L. Kohalmi, "Legacy of the … Serbian-Hungarian Republic of Baranya-Baja", *The News of Hungarian Philately,* July-September 2011 (Vol.42, #3)

Tønnes Ore, "Bánát and Bácska", *Jugopošta,* #77 (March 2006), Yugoslavia Study Group Monograph #4

Zdene Skok, "Slovenian Issues from 1919 to 1929 in Mixed Frankings", *Exponet*

"Treaty of Trianon", *Wikipedia*

❋

ADDENDUM TO THE ADDENDUM TO THE STORY OF THE VILLÁNY PROVISIONAL

by **Csaba L. Kohalmi**

1920(?). A „Villány"i provizórium

Kézi bélyegzésű, fekete színű **„negyven fill"** szövegű, 35 mm hosszú, álló helyzetű felülnyomás a 41b számú borítók díjegyén.

Keletkezésének körülményei ez ideig tisztázatlanok. Az ismert, használt darabok többségének feladói villányi postamesterek, Hollandiába, vagy Svájcba címzettek, és túlbérmentesítettek. Ismert ajánlott küldeményként Belga-Kongóba, Leopoldville-be küldött példány is. További kutatások szükségesek annak feltárására, hogy bérylegen szükségszerűség, pl. bélyeghiány, vagy spekuláció szüleményei.

Drücksache!
Herrn
G. Keiser & Zoon,
Den Haag.
Passage 25.
Holland.

Herrn Drucksache!
Theater Lüneburg.

[27 – 2007. december]

This is a (hopefully, final) sequel to my series of articles about the so-called Villány provisional '*negyven fill*' overprint on 10 fillér stamped envelopes!

The entry for the Villány Provisional from the Hoboday postal stationery catalog (**A magyar díjjegyes postai nyomtatványok katalógusa**) from page 180 is reproduced on the left. The author annotated his entry with the caveat that further research is warranted to discover the background and origins of this overprint. Andor illustrated two examples: a complete envelope sent to Holland as printed matter (German: *Drücksache*) and a partially cropped image of another printed matter mailing. The second black and white image is from the cover I showed in the September-December 2021 issue of **The News**. Roger Morell sent me the images of his cover that was sent to Sweden. He was unaware that it

had appeared as an illustration in the Hoboday catalog and was greatly astonished when I informed him of this.

Inspired by my last article, Dr. Ferenc Nagy, who lives in Vienna, recently sent me images of the first illustration since that cover is in his possession.

10 fillér envelope with 'negyven fill' overprint sent as printed matter to The Hague, Holland from Villány on January 10, 1921 illustrated in the Hoboday catalog. Cover from the collection of Dr. Ferenc Nagy.

Feri Bácsi has a wonderful ability to verbalize his take on the historical origins of unusual philatelic items. Loosely translated, this is what his opinion is of the Villány provisionals:

> *The origins of the Villány issue are quite evident to me. Messrs. Postmasters Bodolácz and Company realized by the end of 1920 that the philatelic marketplace had been saturated with large quantities of Baranya stamps and covers. During a period of stagnation at the end of the year, they were inspired to create their own 'local issue' to supply the eager, still hungry market. They only sent these envelopes abroad so as not to attract the attention of the Hungarian post. (One of the known covers was sent to the Hungarian town of Mohács, but at the time Mohács was in the Serbian occupation zone!) A small number of envelopes were created with the 'negyven fill' overprint and were franked with additional stamps to be sent to a few of well-heeled, regular customers who could pay in advance. In this way, theirs wasn't the miniscule 30 fillér profit over the face value of the envelope, but the asking price of the mailing. I surmise that their price could have been 500 korona, so it was worth making 50 copies. This is what I think was the story.*

Johann Litter was the sender of both of the printed matter mailings shown in the Hoboday catalog. They were posted two days apart, on January 8 and 10, 1921. Both were franked with additional stamp(s) totaling 10 fillér. The tariff for foreign printed matter was 20 fillér during the Serbian occupation of Baranya. So, the spurious 'negyven fill' overprint was not counted in the franking. Add more entries to Robert Lauer's table about the value of the 10 fillér indicium (see page 9 of the October – December 2021 issue of **The News**), the 'negyven fill' reckoned for nothing!

I believe that this 'issue' has been over-sensationalized in the past forty years since the original discovery of an unused envelope back in 1982 by Lajos Schrenk through the batch of four or five covers written up for the Profila auction around 1999 by the late László Filep (and eventually purchased by the late Dr. Paul Szilagyi). It's time to put the nail in the coffin of this speculative overprint and declare it "MACHE = FABRICATION".

❋

A SERIES OF CHRISTMAS POSTCARDS FROM LAJOS MÁRTON

by **T.P. McDermott**

The work of Lajos Márton has been a life-long collecting interest of mine and the January-March 2001 issue of **The News of Hungarian Philately** (Volume 32, #1) published my article "Márton, The Hungarian Scout Postcard Artist". This article was also published in the June 2001 (#145) issue of the *Stamps of Hungary* and in about a dozen or so publications of topical philatelic societies dedicated to 'Scouts on Stamps'.

Lajos Márton was born in Transylvania in 1891. He was an artist/painter, restorer and stamp designer, who, among other things, created frescoes for nine Hungarian churches, did paintings for the Vatican in Rome and designed the Hungarian stamps and souvenir sheet issued to celebrate the Eucharist Conference held in Budapest in May 1938. He was also known for his artwork on scout postcards of the 1920s and 30s. His postcards came to worldwide attention during the Fourth World Jamboree, which was held in Gödöllö, Hungary in 1933. It has been estimated that he produced over 200 different designs for scout postcards. Márton died in Budapest on January 26, 1953. In 1991, following the fall of communism and on the centennial of his birth, his remains were reinterred in a consecrated crypt in the Franciscan Monastery in Budapest.

I still occasionally search eBay for his work and last year I found a listing for eight Hungarian Religious Postcards. It included four Christmas cards from the 1930's depicting events surrounding the birth of Jesus, the Christ Child. While the seller did not list the name of the artist, the artwork of these four cards looked similar to Marton's. A five-dollar investment resulted in me obtaining these postcards.

When I received these cards, which are illustrated below in Figures 1 to 4, I found in various corners of the four cards the name Marton L and the date of 1935.

Figure 1: *Adoration of the Christ Child in the manger – banner reads: DICSŐSÉG MAGASSÁGBAN ISTENNEK! (Glory to God in the highest!)*

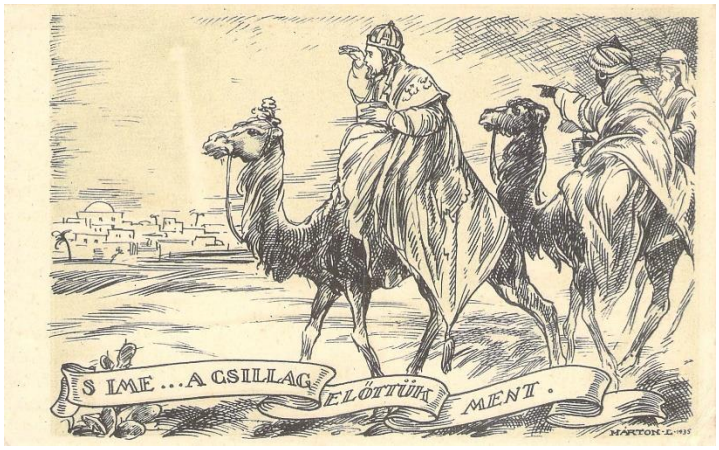


Figure 2: *Three Wise Men following the Star of David – banner reads: S IME ... A CSILLAG ELŐTTÜNK MENT. (And behold ... the star went before us.)*

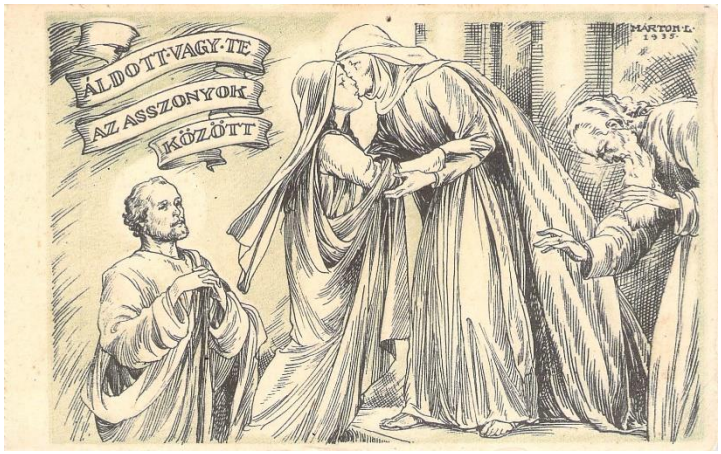


Figure 3: *Visitation of Mary to Elisabeth & Zacharias – banner reads: ÁLDOTT VAGY TE AZ ASSZONYOK KÖZÖTT (Blessed are you amongst women)*

Figure 4: *The Family fleeing to Egypt – banner reads: ÉS MENEKÜLJ EGYIPTOMBA! (And flee into Egypt!)*

These Depression era cards were lithographically printed on light weight or soft card stock. None of the cards were used and all have identical postcard information on the non-artwork or address side of the cards. The publisher separation line reads Kiadja: A Szentföld biztosi hivatala, Budapest, II., Margit-körut 23 and nearby is the printer's symbol of a keystone with the words Klosz [of] Budapest. All four cards have perforations on their picture left side as if they were separated from something else on the same cut of card stock.

Later, I found in my own collection another, but slightly different, card from the same art series (Figure 5). The difference was that the artwork was colored with a green tint and there are no perforations on their sides. Unlike the others, this card was postally used during Christmas time in 1938 (Figure 6).

Figure 5: *Shepherds visiting the Christ Child – banner reads: BÉKESSÉG A JÓAKARATU EMBEREKNEK. (Peace to men of good will.)*

Figure 6: The address side of the postcard in Figure 5 sent locally in Budapest on December 22, 1938 and franked to take advantage of the 2 fillér rate for postcards with five words or less of text.

There are possibly more cards from this series based on other biblical scenes. Can you please check your collections and let me know if you have any cards of this series at tpwzrmcd@hotmail.com. Thank you and have a great holiday season!

❋

NEW INSIGHTS INTO THE 1919 SZEGED NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OVERPRINT ISSUE

by **Christopher Brainard** and **Csaba L. Kohalmi**

(This article was first published in the 2022-1 issue of *Philatelica* and has been republished here with the permission of the authors)

More than two decades have passed since the last English-language article penned by Dr. Szilagyi appeared on the subject of the Szeged *Magyar Nemzeti Kormány* overprints. Previously, in 1972, Dr. Ettre synopsized this issue in the pages of our newsletter back when it was a mere five or six folded pages thick. Neither article delved into the historical and technical details that László Surányi explored in 1982. However, Surányi's article appeared in Hungary when the country was run by a communist government, so his self-censored writings reflected the politically correct perspective of 1982 and not necessarily what was factual in 1919. Nevertheless, Surányi deserves credit for researching all of the available, but woefully scarce documents for this issue. His article has stood the test of time and continues to be the primary source of information. Most of us know about the printers' strike and how two print shops were utilized to overprint the stamps; but with limited access to other sources, analyzing existing blocks and sheets of stamps is the only way to try to second guess the secrets of this issue hidden between the written lines. This is what we have set out to do here.

Historical Background

Figure 1. *Citizens and soldiers of the 'Aster Revolution' wearing flowers in their lapels and caps.*

On 31 October 1918, citizens and soldiers seized public buildings in Budapest, assassinated the wartime Prime Minister Tisza, holding him accountable for the debacle of the war, and forced the government of Prime Minister Wekerle to resign. By the end of the day, King Károly IV recognized the 'Őszirózsás=Aster' Revolution (the aster or chrysanthemum flower became the symbol of the revolution) and appointed Count Mihály Károlyi as prime minister. The selection fell on Károlyi because he was the founder of the movement called the Hungarian National Council which advocated the dissolution of the Dual Monarchy. At the same time, the Serbian and French armies advancing from Greece through Bulgaria liberated Belgrade on 1 November 1918. These forces continued their northward march threatening the heartland of Hungary as the 11 November 1918 armistice was signed on the Western Front. King Károly IV abdicated on the same day. Two days later, Károlyi's Hungarian government was invited to Belgrade by Entente General Louis Franchet d'Espèrey, who compelled him to sign an armistice – the Belgrade Military Convention. The armistice stipulated a demarcation line (the solid red line in the *Figure 2* below) between Hungarian and French/Serbian/Romanian forces in the southern part of Hungary. (The French did not hide their disdain for the Hungarians.)

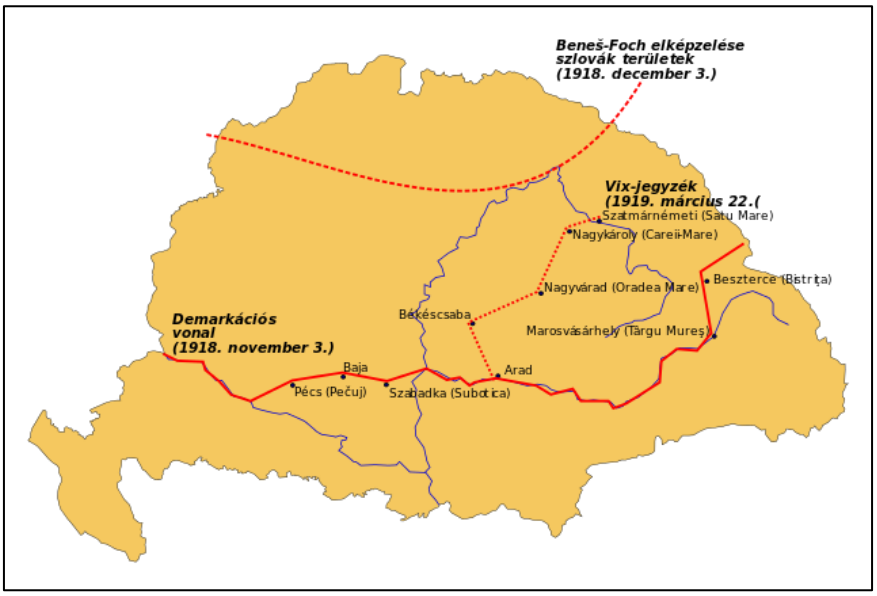


Figure 2. *Map of Hungary showing the 13 November 1918 demarcation line (solid red line) stipulated by the Armistice of Belgrade, the Beneš-Foch claim to Slovakia made on 3 December 1918 (dashed red line), and the withdrawal in favor of the Romanians stipulated by the Vix Memorandum of 20 March 1919 (dotted red line).*

On 16 November 1918, the government declared the end of the monarchy by establishing the Hungarian People's Republic. Republican revolutionary fervor swept throughout the country and a local National Council was established in Szeged. Immediately, the leftist-leaning council petitioned the Budapest government for the withdrawal of its military units from the city in order to establish total civilian control.

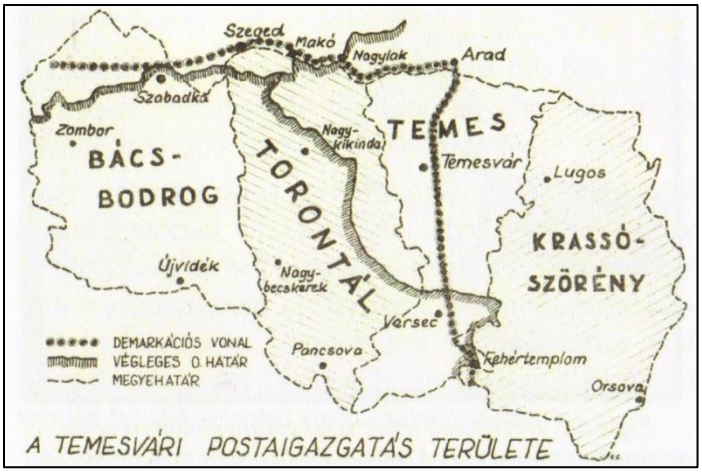


Figure 3. *Map of the four-county area of the Temesvár Postal Directorate showing the demarcation line established by the French between the Serbian and the Romanian armies as well as the final national borders (map reproduced from Dr. Ferenc Nagy's article).*

About this time, the mission of the French forces (the troops were mostly African colonial soldiers commanded by French officers) changed. They continued their push northwards in order to separate the Serbian and the Romanian armies that were facing each other in the Bánát region of Hungary. Both entities laid claim to the region with the Serbians occupying the area beyond Temesvár as far as Lugos by 25 November 1918. In order to prevent a shooting war between these Entente allies, the French were forced to drive a wedge between them by seizing the region between Arad and Szeged. The French forces arrived in Szeged as peacekeepers on 10 December 1918. They had no intention of interfering with the civilian government. Note the location of the towns of Arad and Szeged on the map in *Figure 3*. The French forces were deployed in this general area. Also keep in mind that the area north of the French occupation zone was occupied by Romanian forces.

In Budapest, the Károlyi government proved ineffective in dealing with the external pressures to the territorial integrity of Hungary. On 20 March 1919, the French Entente representative in Belgrade, Lieutenant Colonel Ferdinand Vix presented a note to the Hungarian government demanding further withdrawals (see the "*Vix-jegyzék*" dashed line in *Figure 2*). Károlyi could neither accept nor reject this demand, so he resigned and assigned the formation of a new government to the socialists, who had the next largest representation in parliament. Unknown to him, however, the socialist party had merged with the recently founded communist party led by Béla Kun. On 21 March 1919, the newly enlarged Hungarian Socialist Party, dominated by Kun's communists, declared the Hungarian Soviet Republic. The news of the coup reached Szeged on the next day and was well received by the working classes. Along with establishing a Red Guard militia, the city's National Council demanded the departure of the French occupiers. In response, the French named Colonel Betrix, the commander of the French forces in Hungary, as the military commander of Szeged. On the 26th of March, Betrix issued an 8-point ultimatum to the National Council that included demands to disarm the soldiers and the Red Guard militia in the city. Instead of complying, the members of the council fled the city overnight.

Meanwhile, in French-occupied Arad, former members of the Károlyi government as well as high ranking war veterans came together to form a right-wing national government opposed to the one in Budapest. These officials were forced to evacuate Arad on 5 May 1919 when the French, having pacified the area, turned the city over to the Romanians. In turn, the Romanians interned the Hungarians for two weeks at Mezőhegyes. The group eventually reached Szeged by the end of May and took advantage of the existing power vacuum. Also, by this time, like-minded war veterans started to flock to Szeged. The French gave enthusiastic approval to the activity because of their fundamental aversion to the 'Bolshevik menace.'

As announced publicly on 7 June 1919, the so-called National Government was formed headed by Count Gyula Károlyi. Among its notable members were Count Pál Teleki (foreign minister), Admiral Miklós Horthy (Minister of Defense), and Lajos Varjassy (Minister of Commerce). By then, French General Goudrecourt had arrived from Arad to take over the command from Colonel Betrix. (Varjassy and Goudrecourt were both involved in the *Occupation française* overprints issued in Arad!)

Despite the right-wing elements moving into the city, the industrial, working-class citizens of Szeged continued to sympathize with the socialist ideals permeating from Budapest, and went on strike to protest the presence of the members of the old regime. At first, the newspaper writers and printers went on strike (on June 6th); then they were joined by everyone in a city-wide, general strike on June 16th. The strikes were relatively short duration and ended by June 23rd. These dates are important because the *Magyar Nemzeti Kormány* overprints were prepared during this time.

Contemporary documentation is missing from the municipal archives of Szeged as to the origins of the overprint. Some information came to light in 1920 because of a lawsuit filed by the Hungarian Stamp Collectors Association of Szeged against forgers of the stamps. In the suit, the purpose of the overprinting was publicly acknowledged: it was to generate revenue for the local post office since all fiscal transactions with the central authorities had been interrupted by the embargos of the various occupation authorities. In the case of the similar situation in Arad, General Goudrecourt made the same admission in an interview published in the 1938 No. 12 issue of the **Journal Philatelique Suisse**. He attested supporting the overprinting of the stamps in Arad in order to provide a monetary income source for the besieged city. He authorized Messrs. Varjassy and Sárkány with carrying out the task. Varjassy was now in Szeged and sought out Goudrecourt in order to receive permission for a new overprinting. He enlisted Chief Postal Director Kohl in making the preparations for the task and assigned Ignácz Székely, Chief Postal Comptroller, to carry it out.

Because of the printers' strike that started on June 6th, no one with experience was available to the work at the König press shop, so postal officials and junior military officers took part in preparing the plates and overprinting the stamp stock of the No. 1 post office. By June 16th the printers' strike had become a city-wide general strike. The owner of the König shop did not want to risk the wrath of the strikers, so he evicted the 'scabs' who took their work to another, unnamed shop. Their job was still not completed there when they moved back to the König shop because the strikes had ended after June 23rd.

[As an aside, we tried to visualize the movement of the overprinting operation from shop 1 to shop 2 (and back to shop 1). Stacks of sheets were put into a wooden trunk (7,000+ sheets of 100 stamps!) or a large leather suitcase. We assumed that the entire operation was relocated, including the completely overprinted sheets (the surcharged Harvesters, 2f & 3f Harvesters, 10+2f War Aid = 2,100+ sheets) since the operators could not foresee the end of the strike or if they could move back to shop 1. The printing form was packaged up, perhaps carelessly because the movers were inexperienced postal employees and military personnel. Perhaps the move was by automobile or truck or even a horse-drawn wagon (the Hungarian post used horse-drawn wagons for rural delivery well into the 1950s!) over (most likely) unpaved or poorly paved streets. The jarring travel could have had some effect on the integrity of the printing form.]

Technical details

The text of the overprint was set up using Romana Antiqua nonpareil (6 point) lead type manufactured by the First Hungarian Letter Casters, Ltd. into individual fixtures that were used to make up the final, 5 x 10 image format. The information available to us does not specify how many of these were made. It is speculated in philatelic literature that there were three given that stamps of three different sizes and orientations were overprinted, along with various surcharges that required a second printing operation. In addition, the Express/*sürgös* stamp was overprinted for use as a Postage Due stamp with a modified text. As we will explain later, we can safely say the overprinting was performed using these characters directly; they were not used to create another printing plate. In this article, we call this fixture holding the letter type the *printing form*.

Both print shops owned an 'American foot pedal' press described in the Muller, Kohalmi, Brainard article about the printing presses of Baranya. On such a press, the flat 'plate' was set vertically and the paper (sheets of stamps) was applied to the plate via a movable arm activated by a foot pedal. The printing 'plate' was inked via roller. The finished printing resulted in lettering that was not uniform in color but exhibited a 'squeeze' of ink around the outside edges of the characters.

The inexperienced operators observed that at times the overprinting caused excessive amounts of ink to be applied to the stamps, so they experimented with various degrees of hardness for the sheet underlay. The firmer the underlay was, the crisper the lettering turned out to be. The trial printing revealed flaws that further underscored the operators' lack of experience. As a result, the printing form had to be reset several times in order to arrive at the proper spacing. This involved proof prints on several sheets of the Harvester stamps. Only single proof sheets done on a Parliament-type stamp and Postage Due stamp exist.

Since the printing process involved overprinting half sheets of stamps at a time, we tried to speculate about the most efficient method used by the operators of the printing press. We know that the printing form was placed in the press in a fixed, unmovable position so as to keep the letter type intact. The sheet of stamps to be overprinted was placed on the movable arm held in place with guides somehow. After the initial overprinting on the top half, the sheet was removed and replaced with an un-overprinted sheet. The process continued until the stock of sheets was finished. Next, the printing form was repositioned in the press so as to make contact with the bottom half of the sheet. The process was repeated resulting in completely overprinted sheets of stamps. Because of the two-step process, oftentimes there is a significant misalignment of the overprint between rows 5 and 6 on a sheet of stamps.

Left: Postage Due pair from positions 45/55.

Right: Zita pair from positions 50/60. Top stamp was overprinted in shop1; bottom stamp in shop2

Block of 4 War Aid stamps. Note the misaligned vertical stamp images due to poor quality control at the State Printing Office because of wartime conditions

Figure 4. *Examples of misaligned overprints from rows 5 and 6*

The original face value of the stamps requisitioned from the Szeged 1 Post Office was 140,793 korona. Following the overprinting of five values with a surcharge, the final face value became 238,360 korona. The distribution of the overprinted stamps by face value was as follows:

- Szeged 1 post office offered for sale 46,337 korona
- Hungarian Territorial Integrity Defense League purchased 150,000 korona
- The French military mission purchased 34,952 korona
- Ministry officials purchased 4,388 korona
- The secretary kept for himself 2,683 korona

The selection of stamps sold by the No. 1 post office was mostly from largest quantity overprints. The post office's stock sold out in a few days. Of these, only a few stamps were actually used on philatelic mailings; commercial letters with overprinted stamps are nearly impossible to find. Surányi showed the Stamp Museum's single example of a newspaper wrapper that was acquired from Jenő Ács. It was sent to a relative of his, Károly Ács in Szabadka. (It is interesting to note that non-overprinted postage stamps were available for use for normal postal traffic during this time, so the town's entire stamp stock was not overprinted.) The consortium intended to market these stamps abroad for a profit, so based on the korona amounts for the purchases by the consortium and the French mission, more than 75% of the stamps left Hungary almost immediately.

CSI Szeged

Therefore, with very few historical records to go on, we had to take a new approach to understanding how the Szeged overprints were actually overprinted. Much like a modern-day Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) we needed to turn to the only evidence available, the overprinted stamps themselves. We started the stamp scene investigation (SSI) of the Szeged overprints using complete sheets of the Newspaper, Harvesters, surcharged Harvesters, Károly/Zita, Parliament, and Postage Due stamps.

One by one, we studied every stamp in each full sheet (of 100 overprinted stamps) that we had in our possession to discover any varieties. We noted each discrepancy from the normal overprint, such as missing letters, broken letters, wrong letter type, etc. We kept a separate listing of the noted varieties for each of the different sheet types. We paid special attention to see if noted varieties appeared on both the top and on the bottom half of the sheets. Then, we laid out all of the observed varieties by sheet type in hopes that this information would lead us to the answer of the big question: 'in what order were the Szeged overprints printed?' Fortunately, the evidence we collected did not fail to deliver a plausible explanation.

In his definitive article from the 1982/1 issue of **Philatelica**, Surányi wrote about 'countless errors' in the overprint found on these stamps. Other philatelic literature, even the **MPIK** refers to countless typesetting errors (*A nyomdászsztrájk miatt laikusok végzték a munkálatokat, ezért* ***szedési hibákban*** *bővelkedik a felülnyomás. / Because of the printers' strike, nonprofessionals perfomed the work. As a result, this overprint has plenty of* ***typesetting*** *errors.*). We started out by categorizing these 'anomalies' to find their origins and to help in establishing a timeline for the

overprinting cycle. We concluded that there were only two actual typesetting errors in the printing form among the myriad of missing or incomplete letters and numerals that appeared on our overprinted samples, which turned out to be progressive printing errors. The first one was a primary and true 'error.' Later, it helped us to confirm the use of a single printing form throughout the overprinting as well as the overprinting sequence. In the original typesetting of the printing form, a numeral '1' was used instead of a letter 'I' in 'NEMZETI' in certain positions. This error is shown in *Figure 5*, and it is constant throughout all of the overprinted sheets. It is found on all four sheet formats in exactly the same sheet positions 33, 42, 44 (top half of sheet) and again in positions 83, 92, 94 (bottom half of sheet). The second true 'error' was the use of a letter 'v' to replace the first 'e' of 'Szeged' (see *Figure 6*). The origins and reason for this error are unknown. This error occurred only on the Postage Due stamps in sheet positions 10 and 60.

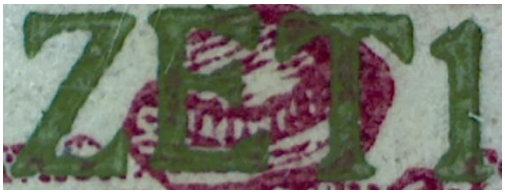


Figure 5. *Error #1: Numeral '1' instead of a letter 'I' in 'NEMZETI'*

Figure 6. *Error #2: The letter 'v' replaced the first 'e' in 'Szeged'*

We also confirmed that three other constant 'anomalies' existed on the printing form and show up on all of the overprinted sheets. The first is the 'Y' in 'MAGYAR' (see *Figure 7*) in a slightly raised position with respect to the neighboring letters (seen in sheet in positions 16 and 66); the second is a partially missing top of the letter 'G' in 'MAGYAR' (see *Figure 8*) in sheet positions 26 and 76; the third is the broken left leg of the letter 'Á' in 'KORMÁNY' (see *Figure 9*) in sheet positions 47 and 97. These three constant anomalies were the result of faulty typesetting or the use of damaged letter type and are not 'errors' in the sense that they were mistakes made in preparing the printing form.

Figure 7. *Anomaly #1: The letter 'Y' in 'MAGYAR' is raised slightly*

Figure 8. *Anomaly #2: The top of the letter 'G' in 'MAGYAR' is missing*

Figure 9. *Anomaly #3: The left leg of the 'Á' in 'KORMÁNY' is broken (image rotated CCW)*

Based on the recurrence of the 'NEMZET1' error and the fact that the three anomalies are found on ALL sheet types, our first major conclusion was that a single printing form was assembled, and this one form was used to overprint the entire Szeged issue directly. No individual metal printing plates were made. The master printing form was assembled at the König shop; and, initially, it was sized to overprint the first sheet type (Harvesters-sized stamps). Consequently, all of the Harvesters, Károly/Zita, War Aid III and Newspaper sheets were the first to be overprinted because the printing form was the right size for these stamps.

As mentioned before, we found many anomalies, the most common of which were missing or partially missing letters and numerals. The manifestations of these errors seemed to have progressed during the overprinting. While the printing form may have been intact at the start of the operation (lettering is neat and nearly complete on all Harvester-type stamps from the initial printing at the König shop), parts of letters and numerals 'disappeared' with use. We noted an occasional positional shifting between the words in the overprint on some Parliament and Postage Due stamps. We also noticed that the printing form became damaged in the three rightmost positions of the second row. The damage showed up as deformed letters in the overprint (see *Figures 10* & *11*). This was a significant observation since the damage is found only on overprints from shop 2. It also helped us to establish a timeline for the overprinting.

Figure 10. *Enlargement of positions 68-70 with the faulty overprint due to damage to the printing form*

Figure 11. *Block of 9 stamps from positions 58-60, 68-70, 78-80, left: 25f Magyar Posta Harvester, right: Newspaper stamp printed in shop 2. Note the deterioration of the overprint in positions 69-70 on the Newspaper stamps and the ink splotches in the margin of the Harvesters stamps.*

YUGOSLAVIA STUDY GROUP

Based in the UK, the Yugoslavia Study Group is the only society in the English-speaking world devoted to the study of Yugoslavia, its predecessor and successor states, with their strong connections to Hungarian, Austrian and German philately. YSG has around 60 members, half of whom are based outside the UK. All members receive the quarterly journal Jugopošta. The society has held a number of meetings on Zoom so far, with members from all over the world, which we intend to continue in the future.

Annual dues are £15 (UK), £17 (rest of Europe), or £18/£23 (rest of world, surface mail/airmail). An "electronic" membership (Jugopošta delivered by email) is £10 worldwide. Dues from outside the UK can be paid by PayPal or bank transfer. Details from the Treasurer, David Foster at 3 Welland Close, Brookfield, Middlesbrough, TS5 8JG, UK or (daveinthenorth@googlemail.com).

The final major anomalies that we noted were that several of the letter types were different in the upper right corner section of the printing form. In positions 10 and 60, the 'N' of 'NEMZETI' and the 'K' of 'KORMÁNY' had no serifs (see *Figure 12*). At sheet positions 18, 19, 68, and 69, just the 'K' of 'KORMÁNY' had no serifs (see *Figure 13*). When we realized that these final anomalies occurred in the exact same place in the form where the major damage was found, the final pieces to the puzzle fell into place.

Figure 12. *No-serifs versions of the letters 'N' in 'NEMZETI' and the 'K' in 'KORMÁNY'*

Figure 13. *No-serifs version of only the letter 'K in 'KORMÁNY'*

We now had all the evidence needed to figure out the chronological printing order for the stamps at the two different printing locations. We know the overprint work began at the König print shop, then moved to a second, unnamed print shop, and subsequently returned to the König shop. We also know the overprinting was done half sheet at a time (5x10), the top half of the sheets first and then the bottom half. Our next major clue came while studying the 'NEMZET**1**' varieties with a '1' instead of an "I" from sheet positions 33 and 83. We noticed that the upper left corner on the 'N' in 'NEMZET1' (see *Figure 14)* was clipped on some sheets but not on others. The 'N' at both position 33 and 83 was not clipped on our surcharged Harvesters, the 2f & 3f Harvesters, and 10+2f War Aid sheets. All these sheets were overprinted entirely at the König shop.

Figure 14. *The upper left corner of the 'N' in 'NEMZET1' is clipped*

On other Harvester-sized sheets overprinted at both shop 1 (top half) and shop 2 (bottom half), we found the top half of the sheet (done at shop 1) did not have the clipped 'N' at position 33, while the bottom half of the sheets done at shop 2 had the clipped 'N' at position 83. Furthermore, our Newspaper, Express/*sürgős*, Parliament and Postage Due sheets all had the clipped 'N' in BOTH positions 33 and 83. What this evidence tells us is that since all of the stamps overprinted at shop 2 illustrated the clipped 'N' variety, the 'N' of 'NEMZET1' must have been damaged either during the transit to shop 2 or at the start of overprinting at shop 2. Therefore, all of the overprints done at shop 1 with the clipped 'N' in both position 33 and 83 must have been overprinted AFTER the printing form was returned from being used at shop 2. Since the Express/*sürgős*, Parliament and Postage Due sheets all have the clipped 'N' at both positions, these stamps must have been overprinted after the work returned to the König shop.

Understanding the sequence of the overprinting was beginning to fall into place. The surcharged Harvesters were the first stamps to be overprinted. The total quantity of the surcharged Harvester overprints with small diamonds in the upper left and right corners (intended to obliterate the old denomination) was completed at the König print shop. On these sheets, the clipped "N' variety does not exist at either position 33 or 83. Next, the diamonds were removed from the upper corners

of each image in the printing form and work continued on overprinting the Harvester, Károly/Zita and War Aid stamps. Some of these sheets were completely overprinted, top and bottom halves. On other sheets, only the top half had been completed when the general strike happened. The work was moved to the second print shop using the same inexperienced operators. During transport to shop 2 or during the initial phase of work at stop 2, the 'N' in 'NEMZET1' became clipped, and the printing form suffered major damage to a group of three images at positions 68, 69, 70 (shown in *Figure 10*). All the sheets overprinted at shop 2 have these features.

While at shop 2, the top halves of the remaining Harvester sized sheets were overprinted followed by the overprinting of the remaining bottom half of the sheets. Upon completing the overprinting of the Harvester-sized sheets, the printing form was slightly reconfigured and the entire stock of Newspaper stamps was overprinted. The clipped 'N' is found at both positions 33 and 83 as is the major damage to the print form.

This order of printing also ties in with the existence of the best-known printing error of the Szeged issues, the downward reading 'MAGYAR' at position 41 on the Newspaper sheets. This error is also found on the 3f Harvester/Köztársaság. It appears that while overprinting the last of the Harvester-sized sheets, the word 'MAGYAR' was damaged or fell out of the lower left corner of the printing form. When the fixture holding the letters was put back into the form, 'MAGYAR' was rotated 180º and was reading down instead of up (see *Figure 15*). This new problem was not noticed when the printing form was used to overprint the Newspaper stamps.

Figure 15. *'MAGYAR' reading down in position 41 on the Newspaper and the 3f Harvester/Köztársaság stamps*

This error remained during the overprinting of the top half of the Newspaper sheets, but was noticed and corrected before the printing of the bottom half of the Newspaper sheets commenced; and, therefore, it is not found on the bottom halves.

The duration of the workers' general strike that started on June 16th in Szeged was 6-7 days. The printers' strike started 10 days earlier, but the König shop remained open, and the *ad hoc* staff of postal and military personnel continued the overprinting. According to Surányi, the owner of the König shop was reluctant to allow the work to continue after June 16th, so it was moved to shop 2.

Assuming that the logistics to move from shop 1 to shop 2 took one day, the staff would have had about a week to work on overprinting the unprinted or half-printed Harvester-sized stamps plus all of the Newspaper stamps at shop 2 before the end of the strike on June 23rd allowed the return to the König shop. To us, this period at shop 2 represents the bulk of the overprinting work. Out of the 7,000+ sheets involved, an estimated 2,171 had been completely overprinted at the König shop. The entire stock of stamps, along with an unknown number partially overprinted sheets was then moved to shop 2. An unscientific survey of surplus stamps in our possession revealed that most values were pretty evenly divided between the two printing shops (half printed sheet from shop 1 finished at shop 2) although several stamps (20f Károly / 15 + 2f War Aid III) originated predominately from shop 2 (both halves of the sheets were overprinted at shop 2). In the final phase of this project, 1,353 sheets were overprinted when the work returned to shop 1. As the strikes ended, the workers would have welcomed the move back to the König shop because it probably offered better facilities; and the work could be completed by professional printers, whose first task was to repair the damage printing form. As mentioned earlier, the damage to the print form (shown in *Figure 10*) was in the exact same area where the new font letter anomalies are (see *Figures 12* & *13*). It would seem that there was an insufficient quantity of Ns and Ks of the Romana Antiqua type to make the repair, so letter type with 'no serifs' was used.

Following the repairs, the printing form was further modified for printing the Postage Due surcharged Express/*sürgős* stamps by adding a line for *50 (100) Portó 50 (100)* above the word 'NEMZETI.' The surcharged Express/*sürgős* stamps were the next overprints to be done because they were similar in size to the Newspaper stamps. After the Express/*sürgős* sheets were finished, the printing form was reconfigured to a horizontal orientation to overprint the Parliament sheets, (some Parliament sheets from this batch were also surcharged later) and, finally, after another reconfiguration, the Postage Due sheets. These last three sheet types all had the clipped 'N' of 'NEMZETT1' (shown in *Figure 14*) at both position 33 and 83, no serifs on the 'N' and 'K' at position 10 and 60 (shown in *Figure 12*) and no serif on the 'K' at positions 18, 19, 68, 69 (shown in *Figure 13*). These stamps were the result of the work at the König shop.

The recorded issue date of the overprints is June 28th. To be sure, this means that some stamps were available for sale at the Szeged 1 post office on that date. Whether the entire allotment of 46,337 korona value stamps had been delivered is mere conjecture. Most likely, the stamps for sale included only the Harvesters and surcharged Harvesters that were printed in large quantities of several hundred sheets. The point that we are trying to make here is that if the overprinting operation resumed at the König shop AFTER the general strike ended on June 23rd, then the printers made quick work of repairing the printing form and overprinting the remaining 1,353 sheets of stamps (Express/*sürgős*, Parliament, and Postage Due) while modifying the printing form three times (repositioning and adding text for the surcharged Postage Due, repositioning again, once for the Parliament format and once more for the Postage Due format sheets). Granted, the König operators were experienced printers, so they could have accomplished this in the four days between the 23rd and the 27th of June. In the end, it is also plausible that the entire overprinted lot was delivered to the No. 1 post office by June 28th so that fiscal accounting could be made for the sales to Defense League, the French military mission, and so forth.

Thus, after the review of all of our printing form and stamp evidence, as well as through the process of elimination, we concluded that following is the timeline for the printing order of the Szeged overprints:

Work begins at the König Press Shop (shop 1):

- Harvester sheets overprinted with surcharge (see below for more on the topic of the surcharge overprint)
- Surcharged Harvester sheets overprinted (top and bottom halves)
- Harvester, Karl/Zita and War Aid sheets overprinting begins (top and bottom half of the 2f & 3f Harvester, 10+2f War Aid, top half on others)

Work is moved to Print Shop 2:

- Harvester, Karl/Zita and War Aid sheets overprinting finishes (bottom half of sheets brought over from the König shop, both halves on sheets that weren't started there)
- Newspaper sheets overprinted (top and bottom halves)

Work returns to the König Press Shop for the remaining stock (top and bottom halves of all the following sheets):

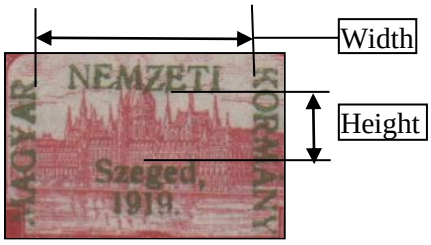
- Surcharged Express/*sürgős* sheets overprinted
- Parliament sheets overprinted
- Parliament sheets overprinted with surcharge
- Postage Due sheets overprinted

Reconfiguring the printing form:

As we mentioned, each time a different sized sheet was to be overprinted, the forms holding letter type needed to be repositioned. Actually, this was not as big a job as you might think. Below is a table of width and height dimensions of the overprint for the five different sheet types: Width = inside spacing between 'MAGYAR' and 'KORMÁNY' in mm; Height = inside spacing between 'NEMZETI' and 'Szeged' in millimeters:

Table 1.

	Width (mm)	Height (mm)
Harvester	14.5	10.0
Newspaper	14.5	10.0
Express	14.5	5.5
Parliament	16.0	5.5
Postage Due	16.0	10.0

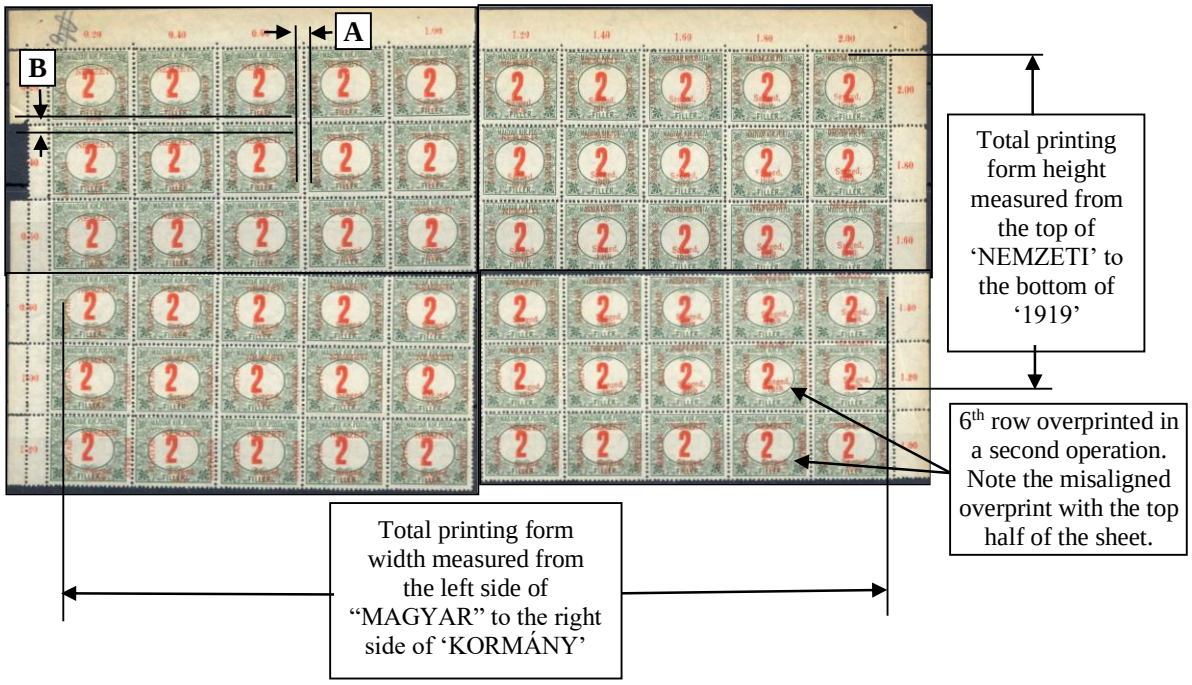


From an individual overprint perspective, nothing needed to be done to overprint the Newspaper stamps after finishing the Harvester, Károly/Zita and War Aid stamps. To overprint the Express/*sürgős* stamps, the word NEMZETI needed to be dropped down 4.5 mm in order to add the word "Portó" and the surcharge numbers "50" and "100." To overprint the Parliament stamps the words MAGYAR / KORMÁNY needed to be moved 1.5 mm farther apart. To overprint the Postage Due stamps, the words NEMZETI / Szeged needed to be moved back apart by 4.5 mm to the original 10 mm separation.

Most of the work to reconfigure the printing form involved changing the spacing of the rows and columns of the individual overprint settings with respect to each other. Below is a table of the overall width and height measurements for the entire printing form. The spacings between the stamps both vertically and horizontally on the Szeged sheets was not perfectly set and varied by a small amount. Reconfiguring the printing form to move from the overprinting of the Harvester, Károly/Zita and War Aid stamps to overprinting the Newspaper stamps required the spacing of the columns of individual overprints to increase by just under 0.5 mm. To overprint the Express/*sürgős* stamps the columns of printing form needed to be moved back together again by approximately 0.5 mm. The biggest reconfiguration to be performed was when the printing form needed to be made much wider and shorter in order to print the Parliament and Postage Due stamps. To overprint the Parliament stamps, the spacing between columns needed to be wider by an average 11.3 mm and the spacing between rows became 5.25 mm closer. The last reconfiguration, to overprint the Postage Due stamps, saw the columns move 7.2 mm closer again and rows 1.0 mm further apart. The spacing between the columns and the rows was somewhat irregular as shown in the table below.

Table 2.

	Spacing between overprint columns (A)	Spacing between overprint rows (B)	Total printing form width	Total printing form height
Harvesters/War Aid	3.00 – 3.50 mm	10.00 mm	211 mm	118 mm
Károly/Zita	3.00 – 3.50 mm	10.00 mm	211 mm	118 mm
Newspaper	3.50 – 4.50 mm	10.00 – 10.50 mm	216 mm	118 mm
Express	3.00 mm	9.00 mm	210 mm	118 mm
Parliament	12.50 – 13.25 mm	10.50 mm	312 mm	96 mm
Postage Due	5.25 – 5.75 mm	5.50 mm	247 mm	100 mm


A
B
Total printing form height measured from the top of 'NEMZETI' to the bottom of '1919'
6th row overprinted in a second operation. Note the misaligned overprint with the top half of the sheet.
Total printing form width measured from the left side of "MAGYAR" to the right side of 'KORMÁNY'

To the casual observer, the white space between the horizontal rows and vertical columns of the stamps in a sheet of Harvesters-sized stamps (Harvesters, Károly/Zita, War Aid III, Newspaper, and Express) may appear to be the same, but there are measurable differences in the spacings (± 0.5mm). Furthermore, the spacing on the original sheets of stamps was not tightly controlled at the State Printing Office since we detected a variation of ± 0.5 mm within the same sheet from this era. These variations also contributed to the Szeged overprint being applied to a slightly different (but observable) position on the design of the original stamp. These variations were deemed an acceptable tolerance by the printers.

[Both the horizontal and vertical spacing between the Newspaper stamps is approximately 4.0 mm. The horizontal spacing between Harvester-sized stamps is ~3.5 mm while the vertical spacing is ~2 mm. An example of how this minor size difference affected the location of the overprint is shown in *Figure 16*. There is a noticeable difference of where the word 'KORMÁNY' ended up on the adjacent stamps.]

Figure 16. *The normal, wider white spacing between the stamps had a small but noticeable effect on where the overprint was applied on the stamp design*

(to be continued)

❋

SOCIETY FOR CZECHOSLOVAK PHILATELY

If you collect the stamps or postal history of Czechoslovakia, the Czech Republic or Slovakia, you may want to consider joining the Society for Czechoslovak Philately. Annual Membership comes with 4 issues of *The Czechoslovak Specialist*, access to the society Library, member's rates for purchasing books and expertization services. You can join on the society website – www.csphilately.org or contact

Marisa Galitz
PO Box 646
Owings Mills, MD 21117
mmgalitz@gmail.com

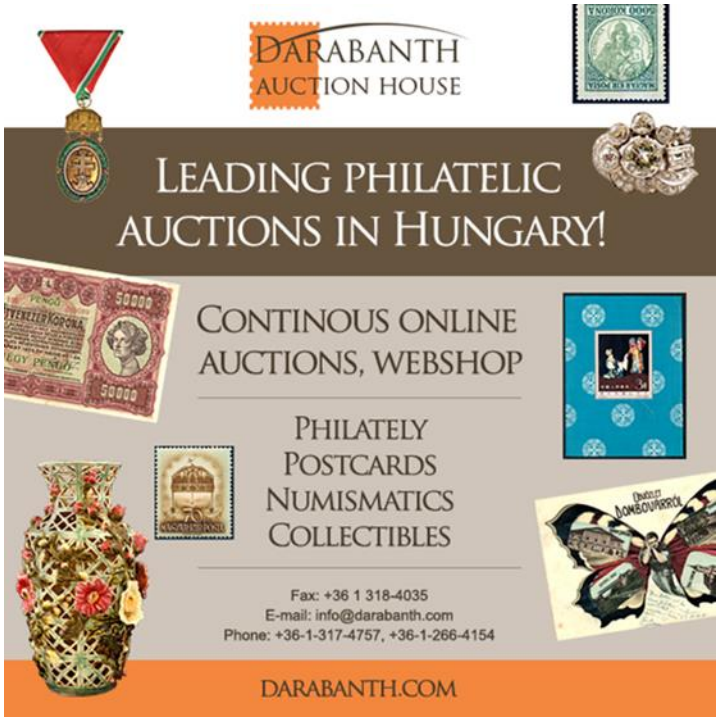
PLATE FLAW FANATIC: THE KÁROLY 20 FILLÉR "LEPKE" FLAW

by **Robert Lauer**

The Károly-Zita issue of August 30, 1918 was only valid for postage in Hungary until November 23, 1918 – less than 3 months, though it remained valid for postage in the occupied territories. The issue was extensively overprinted by not only the new Republican government of Hungary, but also by the National Government in Szeged, the French (Arad), the Czech's, the Romanians and under the Serbian occupation.

I thought that these were the most interesting aspects of this issue until I looked at the "Black Book", which lists three plate flaws for this series: 10f "monoklis" (monocled) Károly; 20f "Lepke" (butterfly) on Károly's chest; and 50f Zita with "szakadt fátyol" (torn veil). The 20f "lepke" is illustrated above; it lacks the detail of dashes and dots in the brocade on Károly's chest.

❋



WANTED: Consignment material for SHP auctions.

Please submit your surplus philatelic items, stamps, covers, and literature to our auction chairperson, **Anna Trischan: N49W16441 Lilac Lane, Menomonee Falls WI 53051 USA,** email: shpauctioneer@gmail.com. You can set your starting price or consult with Anna to establish the same. You can help de-clutter your collection, support your Society and provide a source of new acquisitions for your fellow members all at the same time.

FOR SALE: BOUND VOLUMES OF *THE NEWS OF HUNGARIAN PHILATELY*

Book #	Volumes	Years	Cost
1	1-3	1970-1972	$30
2	4-6	1973-1975	$30
3	7-9	1976-1978	$30
4	10-12	1979-1981	$30
5	13-15	1982-1984	$30
6	16-18	1985-1987	$30
7	19-21	1988-1990	$30
8	22-24	1991-1993	$30
9	25-27	1994-1996	$30
10	28-30	1997-1999	$30
11	31-32	2000-2001	$30
12 *	33-36	2002-2005	**$50 ***

Each book No. 1 thru 11 individually is priced at $30.00 or purchase the entire set of the first 11 books for $320.00. *** Book No. 12 costs $50 each.** Freight fees will be added to all orders. Orders and inquiries should be sent to:

Alan Bauer, P.O. Box 4028, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568; tel: **(888) 868-8293**,
e-mail: **baueralan0414@gmail.com**

THE 1919 SZEGED NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OVERPRINT ISSUE

Local commercial cover sent on July 5, 1919, franked with 20f in Szeged National Government overprinted stamps, including a 10f Postage Due used as a regular postage stamp, to pay the 2nd weight step (up to 40g) local letter rate *(from the collection of Christopher Brainard)*.

A letter sent from Szeged to Vienna on August 21, 1919, franked with 23f in Szeged National Government overprinted stamps to pay the domestic letter rate of 20f. Mail to Austria was subject to domestic tariffs until January 1, 1920 *(from the collection of Csaba L. Kohalmi)*.